# Alberta Economy

## Indicators at a Glance

### Real GDP by Industry

In 2014, Alberta's real GDP by industry grew by 4.4%, the strongest growth rate among the provinces and the fifth consecutive year of robust growth. Nationally, real GDP grew by 2.4% in 2014, up from 2.1% in 2013.

### Population

Alberta's population was 4,175,409, as of April 1, 2015. This was an increase of 2.2% from the year prior. Nationally, population grew 0.9% from a year ago.

### Migration

Net migration to Alberta was 7,723 in the first quarter of 2015. There were 991 net international migrants and 6,732 net interprovincial migrants to the province.

### Employment[1]

Alberta lost 5,000 jobs in June, the second-straight month of declines. Job losses were spread out across several industries. Year-over-year employment growth has declined for the past few months, and now sits at 1.0%.

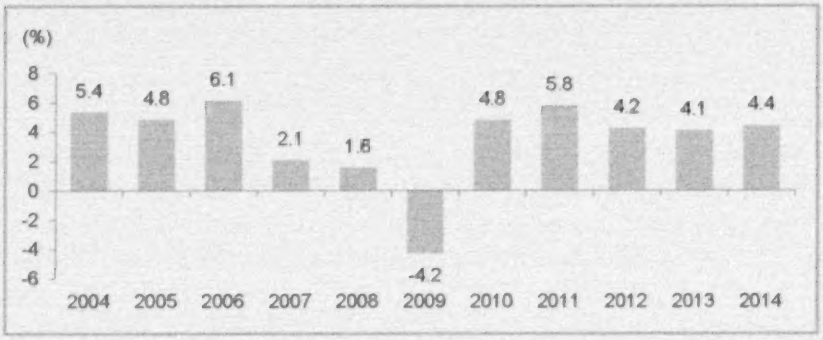
### Unemployment Rate[1]

Alberta's unemployment rate ticked down to 5.7% in June as a result of 7,000 people leaving the workforce. Still, the unemployment rate is up 1.2 percentage points from January.

### Rigs Drilling

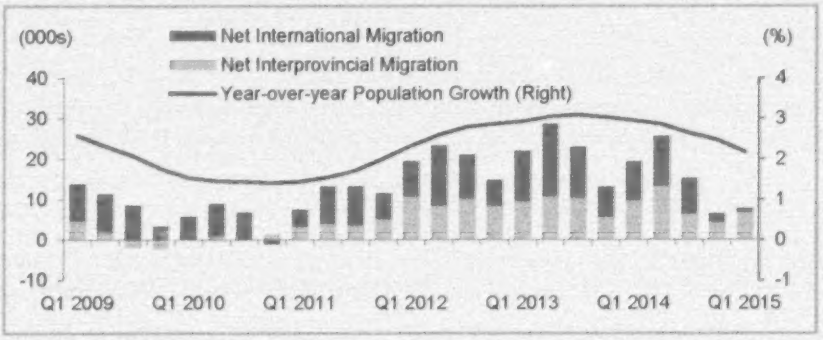
The average number of active rigs in Alberta was 73 in June, a 51% decrease from June 2014. The rig utilization rate was 14%, the lowest rig utilization rate for the month of June since 2009.

Real GDP by Industry
Annual, % change



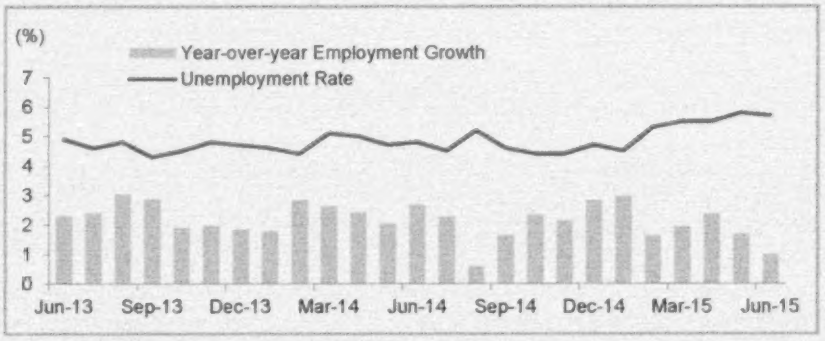

**Source:** Statistics Canada

Demographics
Quarterly




**Source:** Statistics Canada

Labour Market
Monthly




**Source:** Statistics Canada

## Inflation

The Alberta Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 1.7% y/y in June, the highest rate of inflation since December, as energy prices weighed on inflation less than in previous months.

## Average Weekly Earnings[1]

Alberta Average Weekly Earnings (AWE) were up a subdued 1.6% y/y to $1,162 in April. Nationally, average weekly earnings increased by 2.5% y/y to $955 in April.

## NEW: Retail Sales[1]

Retail sales were $6.3 billion in May, down 1.7% year-over-year. Sales were weighed down by motor vehicle and parts dealers sales (-9.3% y/y) and gasoline station sales (-19% y/y).

## Housing Starts[1]

Alberta housing starts were 41,838 (annualized) in June, 26% more than May. The monthly jump was mainly due to a 54% increase in Calgary starts.

## New Housing Price Index

Growth in the New Housing Price Index (NHPI) for Alberta continued to slow in May, coming in at 0.7% y/y. Calgary's NHPI growth has weakened substantially throughout 2015, falling 5.6 percentage points since December 2014.

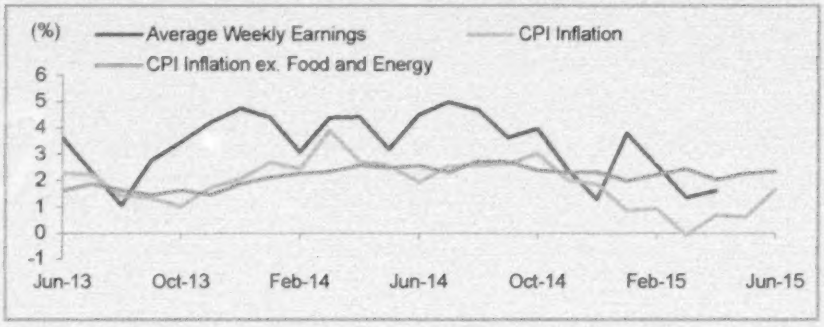
## Building Permits[1]

The total value of building permits issued in Alberta was $1.3 billion in May, down 7.9% year-to-date. Residential permits have fallen 7.2% year-to-date with losses in Calgary off-setting gains in Edmonton.

[1] Seasonally adjusted

### Inflation and Earnings

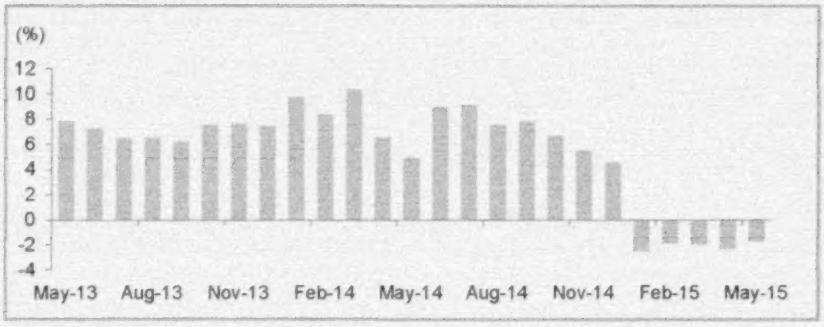
Monthly, CPI and AWE, year-over-year % change




**Source:** Statistics Canada

### Retail Sales

Monthly, year-over-year % change




**Source:** Statistics Canada

### Housing Market

Monthly

**Source:** Statistics Canada

## Contact

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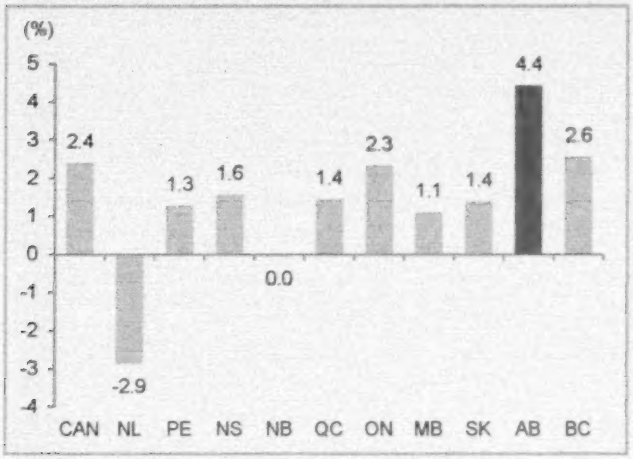
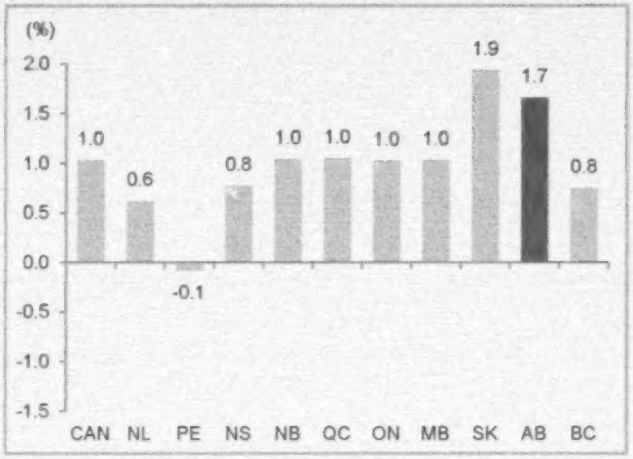
| | Canadian Dollar (US¢/$CAN) | WTI Oil ($US/bbl) | NYMEX Natural Gas ($US/MMBtu) | Alberta Reference Price ($C/GJ) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Latest (July 23, 2015) | 76.75 | 48.45 | 2.82 | 2.33 (May) |
| Fiscal year-to-date | 80.63 | 56.56 | 2.75 | 2.32 |

Please see the *Weekly Economic Review* for current analysis on the Alberta economy.

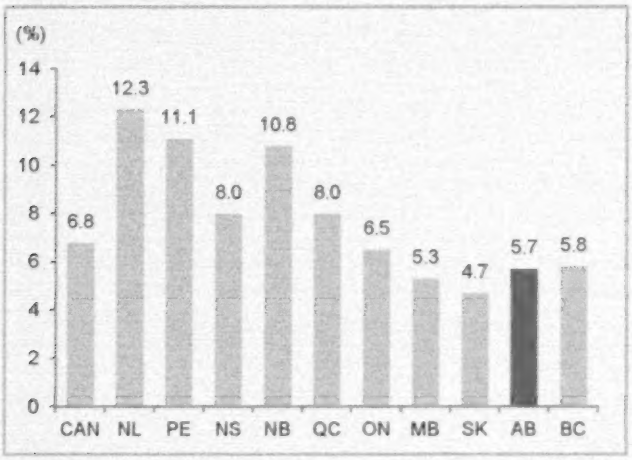
## Real GDP by Industry (Basic Prices)
(2014, year-over-year growth)



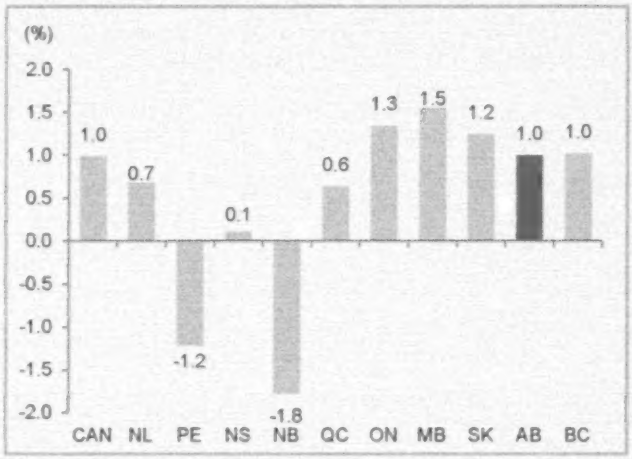

## CPI Inflation
(June 2015, year-over-year growth)



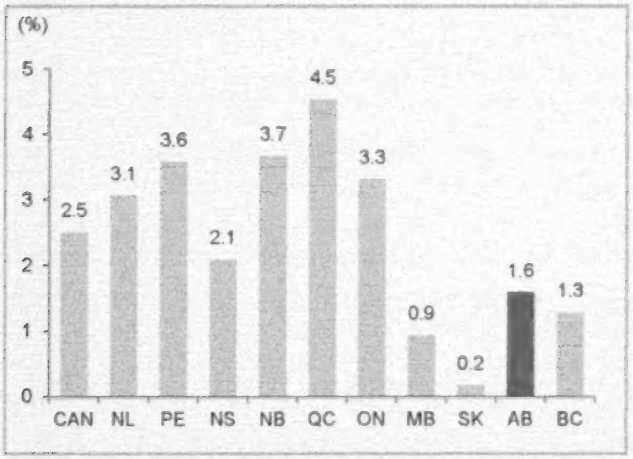

## Unemployment Rate
(June 2015)



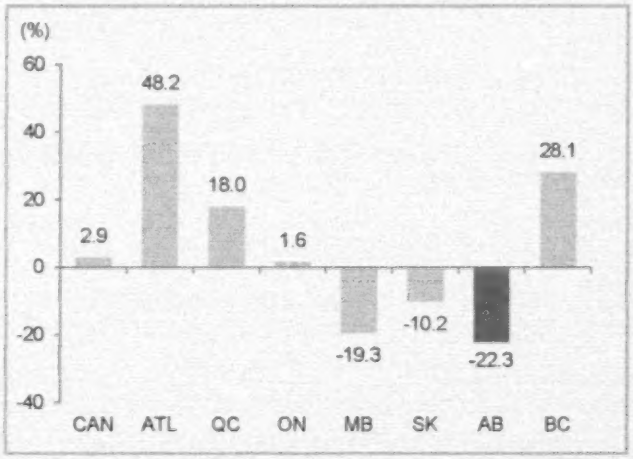

## Employment
(June 2015, year-over-year growth)




## Average Weekly Earnings
(April 2015, year-over-year growth)




## Housing Starts
(June 2015, SAAR, year-over-year growth)



# Alberta Economic Indicators

| Population[1] | 2013 | 2014 | 2015YTD | Jan-15 | Feb-15 | Mar-15 | Apr-15 | May-15 | Jun-15 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Population (thousands) | 4,007 | 4,122 | 4,175 | 4,160 | | | 4,175 | | |
| y/y % change | 3.0 | 2.9 | 2.2 | 2.5 | | | 2.2 | | |
| Net Interprovincial Migration | 38,598 | 36,717 | 17,290 | 4,178 | | | 6,732 | | |
| Net International Migration | 48,116 | 42,478 | 12,194 | 2,352 | | | 991 | | |
| **Labour Market** | | | | | | | | | |
| Employment (thousands, SA) | 2,226 | 2,275 | 2,307 | 2,314 | 2,300 | 2,301 | 2,314 | 2,308 | 2,303 |
| m/m change (thousands) | | | | 13.7 | -14.0 | 1.5 | 12.5 | -6.4 | -5.0 |
| y/y % change | 2.5 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 3.0 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 2.4 | 1.7 | 1.0 |
| Unemployment Rate (%, SA) | 4.6 | 4.7 | 5.4 | 4.5 | 5.3 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.8 | 5.7 |
| Participation Rate (%, SA) | 73.1 | 72.7 | 73.0 | 72.9 | 73.0 | 73.0 | 73.3 | 73.2 | 72.8 |
| Average Weekly Earnings ($, SA) | 1,109.23 | 1,149.35 | 1,161.56 | 1,168.73 | 1,158.87 | 1,156.52 | 1,162.12 | | |
| y/y % change | 3.5 | 3.7 | 2.3 | 3.8 | 2.6 | 1.3 | 1.6 | | |
| **Household Sector** | | | | | | | | | |
| **NEW:** Retail Sales ($ million, SA) | 73,109 | 78,582 | 31,665 | 6,275 | 6,341 | 6,395 | 6,313 | 6,341 | |
| y/y % change | 6.9 | 7.5 | -2.1 | -2.5 | -1.9 | -2.0 | 2.4 | -1.7 | |
| New Vehicle Sales (units, thousands) | 263 | 277 | 100 | 16 | 17 | 21 | 23 | 23 | |
| y/y % change | 6.2 | 5.3 | -7.2 | -0.7 | 0.0 | -8.3 | -8.2 | -13.7 | |
| Consumer Price Index (y/y % change) | 1.4 | 2.6 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | -0.1 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 1.7 |
| Excluding Food & Energy | 1.4 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
| Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's) | 36.0 | 40.6 | 40.7 | 43.8 | 43.2 | 50.2 | 31.7 | 33.3 | 41.8 |
| y/y % change | 7.8 | 12.7 | 0.8 | 11.4 | 22.1 | 26.0 | -20.6 | -1.8 | -22.3 |
| New Housing Price Index (y/y % change) | 2.8 | 3.4 | 1.8 | 2.9 | 2.4 | 1.7 | 1.2 | 0.7 | |
| Resale Home Sales | 66,090 | 71,773 | 27,787 | 4,225 | 4,202 | 4,637 | 4,700 | 5,051 | 4,972 |
| y/y % change | 9.5 | 8.6 | -21.6 | -23.0 | -23.8 | -21.3 | -22.1 | -20.4 | -19.5 |
| Sales to New Listing Ratio | 0.64 | 0.65 | 0.52 | 0.41 | 0.45 | 0.52 | 0.55 | 0.61 | 0.60 |
| MLS Average Resale Prices ($ thousands) | 381 | 401 | 391 | 390 | 383 | 391 | 394 | 396 | 395 |
| y/y % change | 4.9 | 5.2 | -1.5 | -2.1 | -4.3 | -1.7 | 0.5 | -0.2 | -1.0 |
| Consumer Bankruptcies (level) | 4,689 | 3,859 | 1,365 | 278 | 332 | 387 | 368 | | |
| y/y % change | -18.6 | -17.7 | -0.4 | -17.3 | 9.9 | 6.0 | 0.3 | | |
| **Business Sector** | | | | | | | | | |
| Goods Exports (customs based, $ million) | 103,007 | 121,424 | 39,351 | 9,105 | 7,937 | 7,801 | 7,466 | 7,042 | |
| y/y % change | 8.4 | 17.9 | -22.7 | 14.6 | -15.1 | -26.2 | -27.5 | -29.6 | |
| Energy Products ($ million) | 75,709 | 91,273 | 26,773 | 6,527 | 5,610 | 5,102 | 4,950 | 4,584 | |
| y/y% change | 11.6 | 20.6 | -30.4 | 22.1 | -21.6 | -36.6 | -34.9 | -36.9 | |
| Agricultural Products ($ million) | 6,184 | 6,454 | 2708 | 507 | 448 | 599 | 553 | 600 | |
| y/y % change | 9.0 | 4.4 | -1.6 | 6.4 | 0.9 | 5.9 | -9.9 | -7.9 | |
| Rigs Drilling | 235 | 252 | 126 | 272 | 211 | 99 | 51 | 51 | 73 |
| y/y% change | -5.9 | 7.4 | -49.0 | -30.8 | -47.7 | -64.8 | -64.2 | -56.7 | -51.3 |
| Manufacturing Shipments ($ million) | 73,793 | 79,366 | 29,134 | 5,855 | 5,881 | 5,850 | 5,749 | 5,799 | |
| y/y% change | 3.0 | 7.6 | 10.7 | -9.1 | -9.9 | -10.6 | -12.0 | -11.8 | |
| **NEW:** Wholesale Trade ($ million) | 78,605 | 84,614 | 34,589 | 7,076 | 6,955 | 6,922 | 6,894 | 6,741 | |
| y/y% change | 2.3 | 7.6 | 0.1 | 5.0 | 1.2 | 0.1 | 1.1 | -4.2 | |
| Building Permits ($ million, SA) | 17,262 | 18,256 | 8,556 | 1,253 | 1,194 | 1,350 | 1,419 | 1,341 | |
| y/y% change | 17.7 | 5.8 | -7.9 | -27.9 | -9.1 | 6.5 | 6.2 | -8.2 | |
| Residential Permits ($ million, SA) | 9,859 | 10,831 | 4198 | 901 | 908 | 833 | 804 | 662 | |
| y/y % change | 19.0 | 9.9 | -7.2 | -23.8 | 2.6 | 11.5 | 0.3 | -18.5 | |
| Non-Residential Permits ($ million, SA) | 7,403 | 7,426 | 2448 | 352 | 286 | 517 | 615 | 679 | |
| y/y % change | 16.1 | 0.3 | -8.8 | -36.5 | -33.3 | -0.7 | 15.0 | 4.6 | |
| Non-Res. Building Cons. Price Index[2] (y/y % change) | 1.2 | 1.6 | 0.0 | | | 0.0 | | | |
| Business Bankruptcies | 137 | 105 | 28 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 8 | | |
| y/y % change | -40.4 | -23.4 | -15.2 | 28.6 | -63.6 | 16.7 | -11.1 | | |

[1] Quarterly; annual numbers are presented on a census year basis (July 1 – June 30)

[2] Quarterly, average of Calgary and Edmonton

**YTD** YTD (year-to-date). "SA" denotes seasonally adjusted. "SAAR" denotes seasonally adjusted at annual rate

**Sources:** All data are from Statistics Canada except Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canada Real Estate Association), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors) and Bankruptcies (office of the superintendent of Bankruptcy

**All historical data are subject to revision**